

REMARKS

Claims 1-59 are active in the present application. Claims 5-9, 16-21, 25-27, and 29-33 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Support for new Claims 34-59 is found in Claims 1-33. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

--5. (Amended) The hydrogenation catalyst for hydrocarbon oil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the refractory inorganic oxide is alumina.

6. (Amended) The hydrogenation catalyst for hydrocarbon oil as claimed in [any of claims 2 to 5] claim 2, wherein the amount of titanium in terms of its oxide form falls between 1 and 15% by weight of the refractory inorganic oxide carrier.

7. (Amended) The hydrogenation catalyst for hydrocarbon oil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the metal of Group 6 of the Periodic Table is molybdenum and the metal of Groups 8 to 10 of the Periodic Table is nickel.

8. (Amended) The hydrogenation catalyst for hydrocarbon oil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, which carries a phosphorus compound along with the metal compound of Group 6 and the metal compound of Groups 8 to 10 of the Periodic Table.

9. (Amended) A method of hydrogenation of hydrocarbon oil, in which is used the hydrogenation catalyst of [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1.

16. (Amended) The method for producing a hydrogenation catalyst as claimed in [any of claims 10 to 15] claim 10, wherein a phosphorus compound is loaded on the refractory inorganic oxide carrier, along with the metal compound of Group 6 and the metal compound of Groups 8 to 10 of the Periodic Table thereto.

17. (Amended) The method for producing a hydrogenation catalyst as claimed in [any of claims 10 to 16] claim 10, wherein the metal of Group 4 of the Periodic Table is titanium or zirconium.

18. (Amended) The method for producing a hydrogenation catalyst as claimed in [any of claims 10 to 17] claim 10, wherein the metal of Group 6 of the Periodic Table is molybdenum or tungsten, and the metal of Groups 8 to 10 of the Periodic Table is cobalt or nickel.

19. (Amended) The method for producing a hydrogenation catalyst as claimed in [any of claims 10 to 18] claim 10, wherein the refractory inorganic oxide carrier is alumina.

20. (Amended) The method for producing a hydrogenation catalyst as claimed in [any of claims 10 to 19] claim 10, wherein the water-soluble organic compound having a boiling point or a decomposition point of not lower than 150°C is at least one selected from diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol and butanediol.

21. (Amended) A hydrogenation catalyst produced in the method of [any of claims 10 to 20] claim 10.

25. (Amended) The metal compound-loading refractory inorganic oxide carrier as claimed in claim 23 [or 24], wherein the refractory inorganic oxide carrier is γ -alumina.

26. (Amended) The metal compound-loading refractory inorganic oxide carrier as claimed in [any of claims 23 to 25] claim 23, wherein the metal compound is a metal alkoxide.

27. (Amended) The metal compound-loading refractory inorganic oxide carrier as claimed in [any of 23 to 26] claim 23, wherein the metal is of Group 4 of the Periodic Table.

29. (Amended) A method for producing the metal compound-loading refractory inorganic oxide carrier of [any of claims 23 to 28] claim 23, which comprises impregnating a

refractory inorganic oxide carrier with an aqueous solution that contains a water-soluble organic compound having a boiling point or a decomposition point of not lower than 150°C, then drying it, and thereafter further impregnating with a solution of a metal compound.

30. (Amended) A method for producing the metal compound-loading refractory inorganic oxide carrier of [any of claims 26 to 28] claim 26, which comprises impregnating a refractory inorganic oxide carrier with an aqueous solution that contains a water-soluble organic compound having a boiling point or a decomposition point of not lower than 150°C, then drying it, and thereafter further dipping it in an alcoholic solution of a metal compound, metal alkoxide.

31. (Amended) A hydrogenation catalyst having at least one metal of Group 6 and at least one metal of Groups 8 to 10 of the Periodic Table supported on the metal compound-loading refractory inorganic oxide carrier of [any of claims 23 to 28] claim 23.

32. (Amended) A hydrogenation catalyst having at least one metal of Group 6 and at least one metal of Groups 8 to 10 of the Periodic Table supported on the metal compound-loading refractory inorganic oxide carrier of [any of claims 23 to 28] claim 23, which is heated at a temperature not higher than 300°C.

33. (Amended) A method of hydro-desulfurization of hydrocarbon oil, in which is used the hydrogenation catalyst of claim 31 [or 32].

Claims 34-59 (New).--